



UVF Report on

**THE IMPACT OF THE ICC ON VICTIMS AND AFFECTED
COMMUNITIES**

Based on a UVF/REDRESS workshop

Lira, Gracious Palace Hotel

15th – 17th February 2010.

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We are very grateful for the support of the John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur Foundation which funded the workshop

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Introduction

The Uganda Victims' Foundation (UVF) is a coalition of human rights and civil society NGOs in Uganda working with victims and on victims' rights issues. The objectives of the working group are to lobby and advocate for victims' rights especially with respect to the conflict in northern Uganda. The group was formed in 2006 following an International meeting of the Victims' Rights Working Group in London and a second in Kampala attended by participants and representatives of about seven NGOs working with victims who acknowledged the absence of an independent victims' rights advocacy group in the country.

Since then, the UVF has produced the following statements and position papers:

- On 31st October 2008, the UVF made an application for leave to submit observations to the International Criminal Court on the Situation in Uganda.
- On 8th November 2007, the Uganda Victim Foundation (Uganda Victims Rights Working Group) issued a statement on the Juba Accountability and Reconciliation Agreement.
- The Uganda Victims' Foundation (Uganda Victims Rights Working Group) presented their activity report on 20th November 2007 during the Commonwealth People's Forum at Hotel African, Kampala.
- The Uganda Victims Rights Working Group issued a statement on the annexure to the Juba Agreement on accountability and reconciliation on 10th April 2008.
- On 13th August 2008, the Uganda Victims' Foundation produced a video on voices of survivors with the theme "A call For Justice".
- On 21st April 2009, the Uganda Victims' Foundation sent an open letter to the President of Uganda and line ministers on the need for reparations for victims of crimes in Northern Uganda.
- The Uganda Victims' Foundation produced a statement on the International Crimes Bill of 2009 on 4th November 2009.

- The Uganda Victims' Foundation issued a statement on the National Reconciliation Bill of 2009 on 4th November 2009.
- The UVF issued a Status and timeline on transitional justice mechanisms and status of international crimes Bill in Uganda.

This report aims at informing the stocktaking exercise regarding the impact of the Rome Statute System on victims and affected communities from the viewpoint of victims and the organizations working closely with them. The UVF in coordination with the REDRESS Trust organized a 3 day workshop in February 2010, in Lira, in order to gather the views on this topic. This report presents the points that were raised during that workshop and the recommendations that were made in order to maximize the impact of the Rome Statute System on victims and affected communities.

Field outreach reports and presentations on the impact of the ICC on victims and affected communities

In light of the stocktaking exercise that will be taking place during the Review Conference in Kampala, a questionnaire was designed with the assistance of the Victims Rights Working Group (www.vrwg.org) in order to evaluate the impact of the Rome Statute System on victims and affected communities. The following presentations were made during the workshop, reporting on outreach activities undertaken in the field by UVF members and gathering answers to that questionnaire.

Questions for dissemination in relation to the Review Conference Stock-taking exercise on “the impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and affected communities”

When answering these questions, please ensure that you consider both the impact of the ICC's direct activities (investigations, proceedings, trials, outreach, public information, projects of

the Trust Fund for Victims, etc.) as well as the more general effect of the ICC's existence and how this has impacted upon individuals as well as local, national or regional developments. Please feel free to provide suggestions and examples where possible.

1. How has the existence of the ICC impacted on victims expectations of obtaining justice? (including those directly involved with ICC, those in situations but not cases, situations under analysis, victims in unrelated situations). For victims in general, how has the existence of the ICC had an impact on the peace process in the country (or region)?
2. How has the existence of the ICC impacted on victims' views and concerns being heard within their communities, nationally and internationally? [the healing role that justice can play for victims is largely centered on recognition of victimization at the personal, community, national and international levels and it would be good to reflect this in the discussion.]
3. How has the existence of the ICC impacted on recognition of specific types of harm on the ground? eg. for children formerly associated with armed groups; victims of gender-based violence; institution or organization victims; victims of attacks?
4. What has been the ICC's impact on the ground for victims of gender-based violence? How has the existence of the ICC impacted on breaking the silence around gender violence, deterring gender-based violence, or finding justice for victims of gender-based crimes?
5. What has been the ICC's impact on the ground on individual dignity, physical and psychological well-being, respect of privacy, healing and rehabilitation of victims?
6. How has the existence of the ICC impacted on victims' rights to justice and reparation being recognized nationally, particularly for specific groups of victims (e.g., women and children)? Have States integrated provisions concerning victims' rights into their national laws and policies?

WEST NILE

On the community's expectations to achieve justice, it was reported that the Rome Statute System had fallen short in that:

- The arrest warrants have never been enforced in Uganda against those indicted.
- The hope to get reparation is not possible, since without arrest and trial, reparation cannot be implemented.
- On gender based violence the communities do not feel that the Court had a clear impact.
- Those who need some medical assistance like surgery and general treatment think they missed the opportunity to benefit from the Victims' Trust Fund's assistance.
- The community could not fully explain the impact of the Rome Statute.

However, part of this community felt the impact of the Rome statute in that:

- It has helped States Parties to operationalise the work of the ICC and stressed the need to ensure that the operation of the court be seen as universal (not just in Africa).
- The level of enforcement of arrest warrants need to be stepped up through strong cooperation.
- Greater impact would be felt if arrests were executed. Partly, the community agrees for now that the ICC arrest warrants contributed to Kony's running away for fear of being arrested.
- On the other hand, the community is worried that the ICC will try their children who were abducted or are still in captivity. That is why they prefer traditional justice which can spare their children.
- In general, the community is slowly having the feeling that their rights are recognized by the ICC.

The challenges which the community faces on gender based violence are:

- That it is difficult to reveal the ordeal they have suffered, as culturally, talking about it torments them.
- It is also tiresome to come to court frequently and costly at the same time. Moreover victims need to be looking for means to eat and live on.

- Trauma is a major hindrance to victims of sexual violence to come out.
- The abuse of women and children is one of the most painful things for the community.

ACHOLI REGION

Some sections of the community find it difficult to link the role of the ICC to their well being and to peace.

- All in all, the community thinks that the ICC has provided a way of attaining justice and that the arrest warrant forced Kony to flee and later accept peace talks which resulted in the relative peace they are enjoying now.
- However, the depth of knowledge on the work of the ICC is not known to the larger section of the community in the rural areas. They also fail to know whether victims are recognized in national policies and laws.
- The definition of victims is also not clear.
- Regarding assistance projects, the community is unable to tell if the NGO services that they are receiving come from the ICC (Trust Fund for Victims) or not.
- It was recommended that the challenge of implementing arrest warrants by the court should be overcome as there is frustration amongst the community about arrest warrants which are not being executed, a failure which is blamed on poor cooperation among Member States.
- Others in the community still think that the ICC has hindered peace talks. They are happy with the national amnesty laws because it gave them freedom after the abductions and suggest that it be followed by a national holiday, acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Those who suffered from gender based violence hide from talking about it openly despite numerous campaigns by NGOs.

TESO REGION

Victims in this region feel the impact of the ICC but think that the ICC does not cater for them. Most of the problems they suffered are traced back to before 1st July 2002, when the Rome Statute came into force. They lost lives, animals and properties as the community suffered torture from Karamojong cattle rustlers and the UPDF before the LRA came to Teso.

- They hope the Review Conference could do adjustments to cover the past periods.
- They think that the relative security now is a result of the arrest warrants which forced the LRA to stop atrocities and run away.
- However, they feel that as victims, they have not been fully recognized, pointing out that a number of their children are still in captivity with the LRA, with over 2000 who should be forgiven and left to return home.
- Moreover, since they did not get a chance to participate in court's proceedings yet, it is difficult to tell the relevance of the court to their problems. So far, they have not been mobilized by the ICC or helped to submit their views. Victims need the ICC office to hear them so that they can access it, participate and receive assistance in order to improve their lives. Many of them, as victims, are silent on their problems because they do not know where to channel them.
- They feel they suffered a loss of dignity and respect.
- They are limited by their lack of knowledge about the ICC and the fact that they have learnt that their "small" cases are not handled by the ICC.
- In addition, it is also felt that the court is far away.
- They regret that the ICC does not try Government officials.
- The fact that the ICC is taking a long time to carry out arrests was indicated as contributing to Kony continuing to kill civilians in Congo. The community is still fearful, thinking that Kony may come back.
- Slowly authorities have started talking about victims' rights and protection.

- Radio programs have helped communities to get information about the ICC.

LANGO REGION

- Victims are becoming aware of their rights to access justice. However, it is highlighted that while the community thinks the ICC is very strong and powerful, it deplores that it has yet been unable to arrest Kony. Nevertheless, the community feels that the arrest warrant caused fear to perpetrators and led them to flee bringing relative peace and security to Northern Uganda. Furthermore, it has helped the Uganda Government to consider dialogue and use peaceful means to end the war. The ICC arrest warrants helped peace to return; the community went back to villages leaving camp life which was disastrous. This has brought dignity to communities. The ICC arrest warrants helped restore peace and also promote trust among different ethnic groups in the North and North-East Uganda who had been against one another because of the war. The difficulty to realize a stable environment before the indictment and issuance of the arrest warrants was also reported.
- While it is not clear to the community if the ICC and amnesty can go together, it is believed that the court will help give strength to traditional justice so that it is able to handle serious crimes. Nevertheless they worry that the ICC only looks at the LRA as a perpetrator and not at the UPDF.
- Furthermore, the idea of reparation is very relevant to the lives of affected communities and it has been noted that assistance which has come through the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) and provided surgery to victims has impacted immensely in the lives of victims who suffered from pain and torture. The implementation of TFV's projects has been a big hope for the community indicating that the ICC was coming to help them.
- The coming up of the Special Division of High Court is also thought to be a result of the ICC, with the hope that it will increase access to justice.
- Communities are happy that through the Victims Participation and Reparation Section of the ICC, their voices have been heard by the court but they are not sure how the ICC

handles gender based violence. They feel that the ICC is a positive thing but is still very slow.

- Victims have recognized that radio programs can continue to help them know more about the ICC.
- At last the ICC has helped set a new standard to ensure that perpetrators answer for the crimes they committed. Victims believe that this helps in stopping atrocities.
- It is also believed that the ICC has caused fear in the lives of those who collaborated with perpetrators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The community thinks that the ICC should enforce arrest warrants.
- Member States should put in place laws that help them handle other cases within the country.
- There should be provisions in National laws which allow victims to participate and testify in the justice process.
- Provisions which support paying reparation to victims need to be put in place.
- Outreach needs to be extended to rural areas where most of the affected communities live.
- More cooperation is needed amongst Member States so that warrants can be enforced within the shortest possible time.
- Peace talks should be concluded to help those still in captivity come back.
- The TFV's mandate needs to be extended and take various forms to help victims in needs especially with medical treatment.
- Sexually related crimes must be fully investigated and handled by the ICC.
- More partnership is needed between the ICC and Civil Society Organizations to sensitize the communities on the role of the Court.
- There should be a public apology from the Government to affected communities for crimes committed against them and for the State's failure to protect the community.
- Government forces should also be investigated for atrocities committed by them.

- There should be supervision by foreign judges in national courts to ensure integrity and independence.
- The role of intermediaries should be refined and stipulated in the policy framework of the court.
- Special recognition for victims of sexual or gender based violence should be put in place as well as recognition for children's issues.
- The TFV should undertake an assessment of victimization and develop a public strategy in consultation with the concerned organizations, which defines the priority areas in assisting victims (urgent medical needs, psychosocial support) as well as specific districts and countries to be targeted.
- Appreciation was also expressed for the work done so far by the TFV in Acholi, Lango, Teso and West Nile regions.

The impact of the ICC on victims' issues: Workshop

Group Discussions and Presentations

During the workshop, participants were split into four groups, each focusing on the impact of the Rome Statute System on a specific issue of interest to victims and affected communities:

- Peace and justice
- Expectations of obtaining justice and reparation
- Gender violence
- Trust Fund activities

Group one: Impact of the ICC (Rome Statute) on peace and justice

The following was presented as positive impact of the Rome Statute System on victims and affected communities by the group:

- The arrest warrant issued by the ICC on the LRA top commanders and their indictment scared perpetrators off and forced them to withdraw their traumatic activities. As a result peace has been realized in the region.
- The protection of the people and their property is the mandate of the government, the sole provider of peace and security for its people, a role that has not been done by the government to the people of Northern and North Eastern Uganda. Furthermore, peace in the region has only been realized after the indictment of the top LRA commanders, a credit the ICC has taken.
- After the indictment and the arrest warrants issued by the ICC to the top LRA commanders, LRA forces withdrew from the region. To ensure none returned, the government kept surveillance in the region by providing security and peace and ensured that the LRA rebels did not re-organize and re-enter to destabilize the newly existing peace.
- Before the ICC indicted and issued arrest warrants to the LRA top commanders there were accusations and counter accusations over who was involved in causing grave atrocities to the people and preventing peace in the region. The neighboring regions to Acholi Sub-region continuously blamed the Acholis for killing them, causing insecurity and preventing peace, while the Acholis blamed the government for killing them and failing to provide security and peace to the people of Acholi. Following the issuance of arrest warrants and the indictment of the LRA top commanders, the LRA forces withdrew from the region and accepted to talk with the Government. The peace talks eventually involved all the people bordering the Acholi region during which confidence and trust was built and a clear understanding of who did what during the war was developed. The local and cultural leaders, the local communities and the entire region learnt to recognize each other, live together in harmony and in peaceful coexistence.
- The presence of the LRA and their subsequent inhuman activities brought tension between the states, more so Uganda and Sudan in which each accused the other of aiding the rebels. The ICC's issuance of arrest warrants against the LRA's top commanders improved inter-territorial peace with increased cross border trade.
- There were individuals and institutions both internally within Uganda and in the Diaspora who may have been aiding, promoting and collaborating with the LRA by either giving financial, material or technical support to the LRA rebels. The indictment

and issuance of arrest warrants against the top LRA leaders scared this category of collaborators and promoters who eventually gave up their collaboration for fear of being indicted by the ICC; it has thus made a contribution to the current peace being enjoyed.

- The implementation of activities funded by the Trust Fund for Victims of the ICC developed hope, trust, confidence and a sense of belonging for the victims. This has developed a certain peace of the mind and trust amongst the victims and affected communities.
- Upon the ICC indictment and issuance of arrest warrants against the top LRA commanders, the LRA accepted to talk with the government with a view of coming up with means to a peaceful end to the war. On the other side, the government equally became committed to the Juba peace talks, which the victims are optimistic will bring total peace in the region once it resumes and comes to its logical conclusion.
- There has been a general feeling that after a woman is abducted by the rebels she would be abandoned by the man she would have slept with. This also led to domestic violence. However the relative peace now realized, there is general peace and harmony being realized in the families.
- Communities in the camps were living with fear. The current general view and feeling of the people/victims is that there is good relative peace in the existing camps with the majority of people returning home.
- The indictment of the top LRA commanders by the ICC has led to the realization of peace as the rebels withdrew from the region impacting on the community in that:
 - The people/victims who had been forced into camps have returned to their villages and started rebuilding their communities anew.
 - The people who have returned home have started rebuilding their economic lifestyles by engaging in socio-economic programmes.
 - The government and other development actors have embarked on development projects and the rebuilding of infrastructures in the region through the launch of government programmes.

It was underlined that these positive changes amongst returning victims had not been realized before the indictment and issuance of arrest warrants against the LRA by the ICC. Therefore the move undertaken by the ICC has directly contributed to the above positive impact.

However, the following were stated as issues that affect permanent peace in the region:

- As much as the indictment of the top LRA commanders initiated and forced the LRA rebel forces to talk about peace with the government during the Juba Peace Talks and the subsequent cessation of hostilities, it hindered the peace talks as rebels pushed for the withdrawal of the indictment before they would agree to continue with the peace talks. This will in the long run impact negatively on the current peace realized by the people in the region. However, it was recognized that this might have been an approach by the LRA to try to escape from the decision the court had taken against them.
- The ICC has failed to have the indicted LRA leaders arrested. Moreover its prosecution process is very slow and thus has not met the expectations of victims for justice. Moreover, as no one has been arrested out of the indicted LRA commanders, there is fear that rebels might get an opportunity to reassemble, get organized once more and attack the resettling victims in the areas of return, hence a potential for renewed insecurity destabilizing the current peace.
- There are reported incidents due to the presence of unexploded fire arms in the areas of return which cause a security threat to returning victims. The responsible organs/departments need to come up with a strategy and help rid the region of these unexploded fire arms so as to ensure the security of the victims as they return.
- The security of former combatants that formed the active rebel forces and have now returned is still in balance and they are looked at by other victims as perpetrators of torture who equally need to be punished. Similarly, returnees are still traumatized with deep rooted memories of torture. Their free mixing with others is still risky as they bring memories back which harm other members within the community putting and create fear and despair.
- The ICC is perceived as promoting justice over peace in her methods of work which has scared away the rebels and the rebel collaborators from coming out and facing the traditional justice system.
- The ICC only looks at the LRA as the perpetrators and source of insecurity while other forces like the UPDF did the same and are not handled by the ICC.
- The pursuit of the LRA to its hiding places may bring continued tension.

The plenary added the following points:

- The indictment and arrest might not have been such a stumbling block to the Juba peace talks but have been used by the LRA as an escape point from the peace process. Indeed, there were similar peace talks before the indictment which the LRA rejected.
- Many issues have not been resolved by the ICC and the LRA still continues to destabilize the region.
- The time frame taken by the ICC leaves out other atrocities committed before the Rome Statute entered into force.
- The ICC indicted only a few of the top commanders and yet the other commanders who may instigate and revive the war or who participated in the atrocities are still at large.
- The collaborators need to be investigated and brought to book to ensure the current peace is not hindered by their activities if renewed.
- Harmony in families as well as peace in the camps was also highlighted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The government should apologize to the people for the atrocities committed by the LRA and recognize that it happened out of its failure to provide security to the people.
- In order to consolidate the peace, there is a need to develop and consolidate a framework for apology.
- Truth and justice mechanisms should be implemented at different levels.
- The ICC and the Government should investigate top UPDF commanders and other soldiers who allegedly participated/committed crimes during the LRA war.
- The Special Division of the High Court should investigate equally all parties to the conflicts.
- Both the government and the LRA should remain committed to the Juba peace process until its final conclusion to give impetus to the current relative peace.
- The international community should double efforts to arrest the LRA leader (Joseph Kony) in order to ensure total peace.

Group two: impact on Victims' expectation of obtaining justice /reparation

After considering the definition of victim contained in the Rome Statute, the group acknowledged that there were also other victims who fell outside this definition.

Regarding the impact on expectations to obtain justice the following points were made:

- Regarding participation, the ICC should be accessible at grassroots level and opened to all eligible victims, without discrimination.
- Some felt that too many expectations might have been raised about the ICC by early outreach programs and that sometimes, the issues are political and there is misinformation.
- Some victims were disappointed after realizing the “true nature” of the ICC’s work such as the fact that arrests are to be made by state actors and that the prosecution process is slow.
- Regarding the issue of complementarity, victims/people do not yet believe in the national legal system’s competence and integrity and do not yet expect the Special Division of the High Court to deliver justice. They also pointed out that most victims had not been given opportunities to participate in past cases and that the process should be done under foreign supervision.
- It was also reported that the ICC should conduct, and be perceived to conduct, its operations independently from state actors’ influence.

Regarding the impact on expectations to obtain reparations the following points were drawn:

- Rehabilitation should occur and address most of the physical harm.
- Victims should be supported in order to restore their original status.
- Reparation should not be tied to the outcome of court proceedings.
- Victims should receive the funds that are available, even though limited, as there is a crucial need for reparation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reparation should clearly be differentiated from government programs (NUSAF, PRDP etc).
- The limitations of the Rome Statute System should be explained to victims by:
 - Undertaking more outreaches;
 - Building the capacity of intermediaries;
 - Standardizing information.
- Issues of reparation should be made explicit within the Special Division of the High Court especially in light of properties that were lost/destroyed.
- Prosecution and reparation should be done within a reasonable timeframe.
- State Parties should make strong commitments to the TFV and donate funds.
- Symbolic victims' remembrances such as a special day should be established.
- A fast track process to domesticate the Rome Statute into national law should be adopted.
- More sensitization on the ICC should be done for the masses.
- The ICC needs to increase its efforts towards realizing victims' participation.
- More support is needed for intermediaries who assist in reaching out to victims and assist them to participate.
- The ICC should recognize the status and role of intermediaries by providing training, remuneration and protection.
- There should be increased sensitization on the Special Division of the High Court, especially in affected areas.

Group three: impact on Gender Violence issues

When identifying the impact of the Rome Statute System on gender violence, members raised the following points:

- It was noticed positively that some victims of gender based violence were able to participate in pursuing justice by completing participation forms.
- By introducing a gender outreach component, the ICC has helped some women to open up and speak in protected set ups about their experiences.

- Some victims of gender based violence in Northern Uganda have benefited from the TVF's medical assistance program such as reconstructive surgery for mutilated body parts, removal of retained bullets.
- The sensitization work and outreach activities of the ICC has contributed alongside that of NGOs to reduce the stigma attached to women and children who are victims of gender based violence.
- On the other hand, some regret that victims of gender based violence were not specifically targeted early enough in ICC outreach activities.
- It has also been difficult for some victims to understand their rights, how they have been violated during the LRA war and how they can access justice.
- Due to the fear attached to reporting cases of gender based violence, many victims decide to remain silent.
- Many victims have not been able to report their cases since the ICC has not yet brought any indictment against state actors in Uganda.
- Moreover, the ICC has not yet come up with clear mechanisms and strategies to help women and children victims of gender based violence to break the silence imposed by culture on sexual matters.
- Up to now, victims have not received sufficient information about the ICC, its roles, mandates and how it deals with gender based violence.
- Victims of gender based violence feel disappointed that the ICC has not recognized them as a special category of victims in Uganda, and the fact that they have suffered a special vulnerability due to the war and their given gender roles in society. For example, raped women become single mothers, child mothers, living with HIV/AIDS and often have lost land/property rights.
- So far no perpetrator of gender based violence during the LRA war has been successfully prosecuted and convicted by the ICC. No arrest warrant has been made and this has disappointed some victims.
- Victims of gender based violence have not generally benefited from programmes that should have been created by the ICC to respond to the effects of gender violence, e.g. psycho-social support, medical and legal aid services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The ICC should treat victims of gender based violence as special groups and design potential mechanism/strategies that protect them.
- There should be protection of intermediaries by the Court.
- Special education schemes for the children born in captivity should be designed.
- Further efforts should be made to re-integrate and enhance the equal property ownership/rights and to reduce the vulnerability of victims of gender based violence.
- The ICC should take into account the special nature this crime in providing reparations for victims of gender based violence, paying attention to the potential secondary impact of the violation (retraumatization).

Group Four: Impact of the Trust Fund for Victims

Discussions covered both the general impact of the Trust Fund as well as the perceived impact of TFV's projects implemented in the region. Ahead of the workshop, discussions had been held with organisations that benefited directly from the TFV's assistance and the reports from these discussions were also discussed.

Overall the following points were identified as positive impact of the Trust Fund:

- Families and communities who benefited from TFV's assistance appreciated the project as it brought both psychosocial and physical healing: e.g stigmatization, social misfit, and shame reportedly disappeared.
- There was positive re-integration where victims built confidence in one another, in their families and communities.
- There was also family re-union, whereby broken families were normalized as wife and husband.
- Victims were also counseled, building absolute confidence in themselves.
- The fact that while direct beneficiaries saw their lives improved, the impact could also be seen amongst the communities, as indirect beneficiaries, was praised.

- There was increased production in the area where the support was given; Families were able to pay school fees for their children, pay for medical care as well as shelter following the income generated from the project.
- Since there were road access, victims could actively participate in community development.
- An increased level of community participation towards development was observed.
- Family/Community re-integration occurred thanks to communication links.
- It has brought hope and confidence to victims who feel that their plights have been recognized.

On the points where further action was needed, it was reported that:

- Areas of operations were limited because the implementing partners had little say over the selection of the beneficiaries.
- The community's expectations were great but were disappointed when it appeared that there was little funding to cater for the overwhelming number of victims.
- There was inadequate funding.
- While the case of victims with bullets in their bodies was identified, these victims have not received any assistance yet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The funds provided by the TFV should continue to be channeled directly through national organisations working with victims where possible;
- In relation to small organizations which have insufficient capacities, TFV should consult with victims networks and organisations to identify sustainable means of channeling funds and to increase the capacities of small organizations.
- The TFV should undertake an assessment of victimization and develop a public strategy in consultation with the concerned organizations, defining priority areas in assisting victims (urgent medical needs, psychosocial, as well as specific districts and counties).

Timeline on transitional justice mechanisms and status of International Crimes Bill in Uganda

- 17th March 1999 – Uganda signed the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Amnesty Act of 2000 comes into operation in Uganda
- 14th June 2002 – Uganda ratified the Rome Statute establishing the International Court
- 1 July 2002 – ICC Rome Statute entered into force (60 ratifications deposited)
- 12th June 2003 – Uganda signed the Bilateral Immunity Agreement
- December 2006 – Uganda’s Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs tables ICC Bill before Parliament of Uganda for First reading. The bill was thereafter referred to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee who consequently referred it to the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) for advice on clauses that seemed incompatible with Ugandan law.
- March 2008 - Annexure 3 of the Juba Peace Agreement on accountability and reconciliation was signed by Government and LRA negotiating teams
- July 2008 - Special Division of War Crimes (of the High Court of Uganda) is created, as three Judges and a Registrar are appointed by the Judiciary.
- November 2008 – Juba Peace negotiations collapse, as Joseph Kony fails to sign peace accord.
- 21st January 2009 – Uganda signed the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities.
- 29th June 2009 – Newly appointed Ugandan judge at the ICC, Nsereko visits Uganda and gives a lecture to Ugandan MPs on the “implementation of the Rome Statute”, where he emphasizes that the traditional justice systems cannot be used to try war crimes.
- November 2009 – UVF released Position Papers on the International Crimes Bill and the National Reconciliation Bill
- 28th January 2010 – Principal Judge, Honorable Justice Ogoola announces that expert foreign judges will be included in the War Crimes Division, given the international nature of crimes. He also reportedly called for the creation of a Truth Telling Commission to facilitate healing and examine causes of crimes.

- January 2010 – A proposal is made to enact the Transitional Justice Bill.
- February 2010 – The Legal and Parliamentary Committee concludes its report on the International Crimes Bill, and sends it back to the Plenary for the Third and final reading.
- March 2010 – The International Crimes Bill is scheduled to be included among the bills to be passed in the first quarter of the current session of the Parliament; and is scheduled to be passed in March 2010, in principle before the ICC review conference in Kampala.
- National Reconciliation Bill is currently still with the Justice Law Order Sector (JLOS) secretariat, who are allegedly carrying out consultations on its content with both local and international stakeholders.
- 31 May to 11 June 2010 – Review Conference on Rome Statute scheduled to take place in Kampala, Monyonyo.

List of Organizations in attendance

1. Justice and Reconciliation Project – Gulu (Lino Ogura)
2. Adjumani Development Peace Initiative – Adjumani (Lawrence Adrawa)
3. Empowering Hands Uganda – Gulu (Denish Martin OKwir)
4. Amuria District Development Agency – Amuria (Nathan Ebiru)
5. North East Chili Producers Association – Lira
6. Teso Religious Leaders Organisation – Soroti (Bishop Justine Edwea)
7. Fensa Reparation Project – Lira (Howard Onyok)
8. Kumi Human Rights Initiative – Kumi (Robert Opedun)
9. Save the Children Uganda – Apac (Kole Hellen)
10. Caritas Counseling Centre – Gulu (Sister Beatrice Adoch)
11. Christian Youth Initiative For Development – Lira (Okello Washington)
12. African Youth Initiative Network – Lira (Ochen Victor)
13. Global Action For Development – Apac (Opio Nelson)
14. National Association of Women Organization in Uganda - Apac (Florence Omara)
15. Former Abductees Development – Oyam (Odyek Basil)
16. NGO Apac Link Forum – Apac (Jamara Sam)
17. Oyam Foundation – Oyam (Allan Opii)
18. Lira Women Peace Initiative – Lira (Agnes Achen)
19. Obongi Development Forum – Moyo (Langa Sebbi)
20. Gideon Foundation Against Child Sacrifice – Soroti (John Santos Labenja)
21. Peace and Justice Commission – Lira (Fr James Obot)
22. Centre for Reparation and Reconciliation – Gulu (Adokorach Christine)
23. Lira NGO Forum – Lira (Okello Dan)
24. Adjumani Action for Poverty Eradication – Adjumani (Ondoa Dommy Christine)
25. Uganda Victim Foundation – Lira (Chris Ongom)
26. Redress – London (Mariana Goetz)
27. UVF Legal Adviser – Kampala (Robert Mugaga)
28. Youth as Peace Builders – Gulu (Okello Godwin D)